

# **Summary: Investigation of Alleged Misuse of Government Credit Card and Overtime Labor Hours by NPS Staff at Gateway National Recreation Area**

**Report Date: January 25, 2016**

OIG investigated an allegation that employees at the Gateway National Recreation Area (GNRA) violated the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) by using Government credit cards for construction-related purchases that exceeded the micropurchase threshold. We also investigated an allegation that, with no regard to cost, the GNRA's deputy superintendent sanctioned a construction project to rehabilitate two Government housing units as a favor to the GNRA's administration officer.

We found that GNRA employees used their Government credit cards to make approximately \$21,000 in micropurchases in fiscal year 2014 for a construction project to rehabilitate two Government-owned housing units located at GNRA. These purchases exceeded the \$2,000 total micropurchase threshold for construction and violated the FAR requirement. We found that, despite the FAR requirement to conduct a cost estimate of the planned construction project, no one at GNRA did so. We also found that GNRA maintenance employees performed the labor for the projects, and most received overtime pay.

During the investigation, we discovered that GNRA maintenance employees did not properly report activity, such as construction, expenses, and hours expended, through the Facilities Management Software System in accordance with National Park Service Director's Order #80, "Real Property Asset Management." As a result, we could not accurately calculate the cost of the project, which included purchased supplies and employee regular and overtime hours.

We did not find any evidence to indicate that GNRA's deputy superintendent colluded to provide an inappropriate benefit to the administration officer.

We did not refer our findings for criminal prosecution because we did not identify any criminal activity.

This is a summary of an investigative report that was issued to NPS for review and action.

